

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 222672

EXDIS TOSEC 30

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 222672 SENT LISBON DATED OCT 9.

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 222672

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION

FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. THE SECRETARY AND I HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DIRECTION THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION IS TAKING AND WE WISH TO HAVE AN UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENT OF BOTH THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, DECIDED TO SEND A TEAM TO LISBON TO ATTEMPT TO MAKE AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION WHICH WILL BE HELPFUL TO US HERE IN WASHINGTON IN CONSIDERING, PRIOR TO THE POSSIBLE VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY COSTA GOMES LATER THIS MONTH, WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH RESPECT TO THE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE WHICH THE PORTUGUESE HAVE MADE TO US.

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2. A SEPARATE MESSAGE WILL GIVE YOU THE NAMES OF THE TEAM AND DETAILS CONCERNING THEIR ARRIVAL ON OCTOBER 10. THE SECRETARY AND I ATTACH THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THE WORK OF THIS TEAM AND REQUEST THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF GIVE IT THE FULLEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN CARRYING OUT ITS ASSIGNMENT. IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM INDIVIDUALLY TO SEE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, AND I SHALL RELY ON YOU TO SEE THAT ALL ELEMENTS OF YOUR MISSION WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM.

3. THE TEAM, UNDER THE NOMINAL LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR OF IBERIAN AFFAIRS ALAN LUKENS, WILL BRIEF YOU FULLY ON THEIR REQUIREMENTS. THE TEAM'S ASSESSMENT WILL BE WRITTEN UPON THEIR RETURN TO WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH IT WILL SHARE WITH THE EMBASSY SUCH CONCLUSIONS AS IT MAY HAVE REACHED PRIOR TO ITS DEPARTURE.

4. ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM, PETER DE VOS, HAS A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH VITOR ALVES WHICH HE HOPES TO RENEW. HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET ALVES WITHOUT EMBASSY INTERCESSION AND TO ENDEAVOR TO ESTABLISH OTHER CONTACTS WITH AFM MEMBERS THROUGH ALVES.

5. IN MAKING REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH GOP AND OTHERS, IT CAN BE EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS AN INFORMATION-GATHERING EXERCISE IN CONNECTION WITH THE URGENT CONSIDERATION WHICH IS BEING GIVEN IN WASHINGTON TO PORTUGAL'S REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. INGERSOLL
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

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